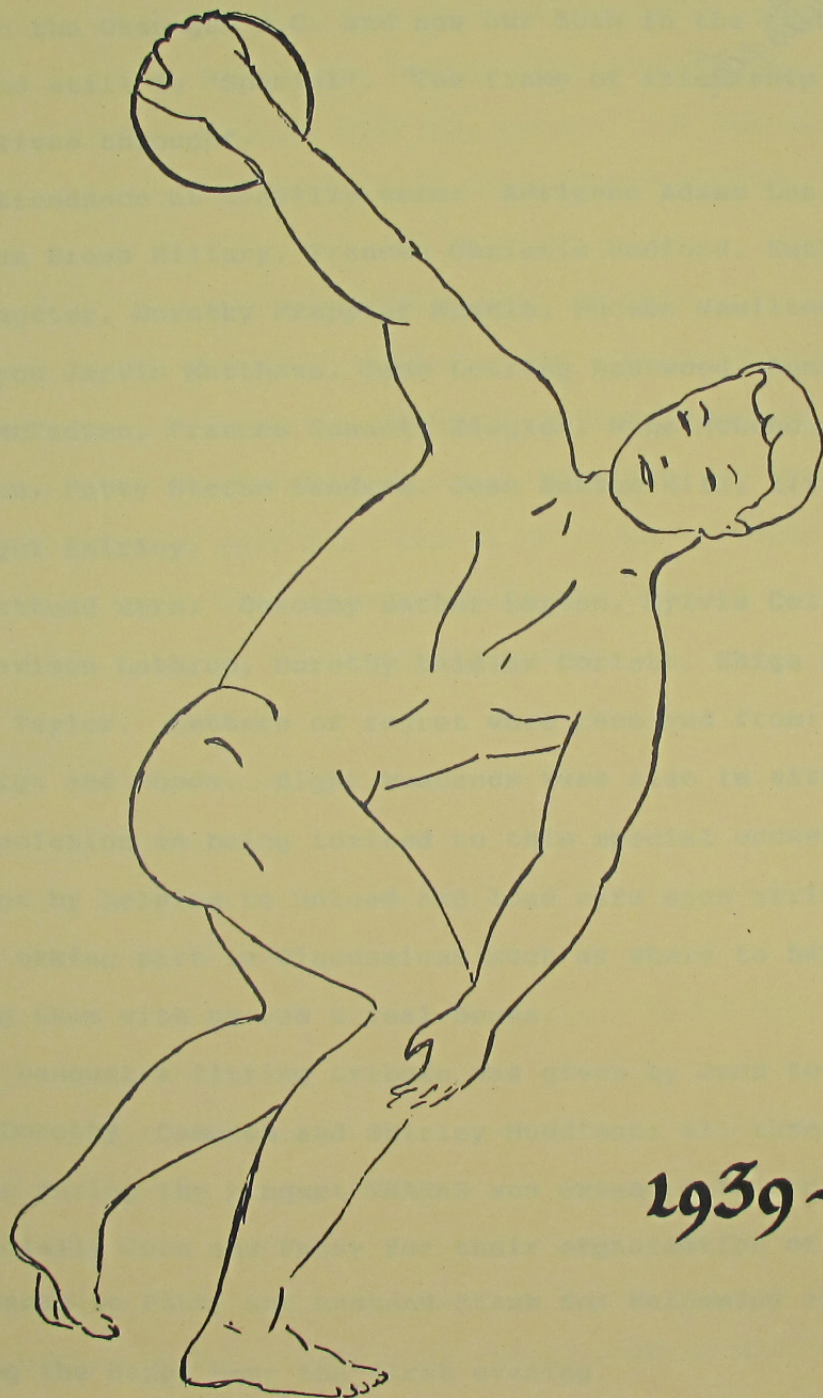


MES



1939 ~ 1989

Dorothy Forsyth Sangster

IMPRESSIONS OF OUR 50TH REUNION

The year 1989 will go down in history, especially for the twenty M.E.S. Grads who travelled to Ronville on Lake of Bays, Muskoka, Ont. in September to attend their 50th Reunion. Friendships made over these 50 years have been rekindled from time to time such as at the 25th reunion in Toronto, the 45th in the Okanogan B.C. and now our 50th in the East. This class has been and still is "Special". "The flame of friendship true will last our whole lives through".

Those in attendance at Ronville were: Adrienne Adams Lea, Gwen Baalim Murray, Joan Brown Hillary, Frances Christie Bedford, Ruth Corner, Dorothy Forsyth Sangster, Dorothy Frappier Munsie, Phoebe Hamilton, Carol Hendry Duffus, Joyce Jarvis Matthews, Jess Loaring Eastwood, Anne Lyster Toole, Kay Marsh McFadzen, Frances Connell Ziegler, Winn McLennan Johnston, Kay Reed Swenson, Patty Sterne Sanders, Jean Sutton Hill, Elinor Walker Chadwick, Julia Wright Fairley,

Unable to attend were: Dorothy Barber Lupton, Sylvia Collier-Wright Teal, Margaret Davison Lathrop, Dorothy Laidlaw Corlett, Shiga Hasagawa Ishimura, Rhoda Wood Taylor. Letters of regret were received from: Dorothy Barber, Sylvia, Shiga and Rhoda. Eight husbands were also in attendance, and voiced their appreciation in being invited to this special occasion. They did add to the event by helping to unload and load cars upon arrival and departure as well as taking part in discussions such as where to have the next reunion. Just having them with us was a real bonus.

During the banquet a fitting tribute was given by Jess to-Marj Fraser Armitage, Dorothy Cameron and Shirley Muddiman; all three have passed away. Also during the banquet THANKS was extended to the committee in the East, especially Joan and Patty for their organization of this event. A special thanks to Patty and husband Frank for welcoming all upon arrival and hosting the Happy Hour the first evening.

IMPRESSIONSAdrienne Adams Lea

"Thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. All really special - to be in a lovely Lodge and have the whole place to ourselves - and to have such gorgeous weather. Main regret - not all members of the class were able to attend. The banquet was especially memorable - a souvenir book mark made by Russ and Winn Johnston will be a constant reminder of a great time. We should congratulate ourselves for having such a super class and for having kept in touch with one another over the years. And for husbands who get along so well together and want to be part of the reunion."

Gwen Baalim Murray

"Felt the atmosphere most relaxed - no program to prepare - all had time to visit with one another. The hike to Tanamkoon was a real highlight. When approaching the warf - memories came back - re canoeing - gunwale bobbing, and overturning canoes. The turn out was great - all very special - other classes envy our 'esprit de corps'. Happy Hour get togethers were delightful. Meals were excellent and the banquet - thanks to Patty, Frank, Joan and Jess - was a real highlight."

Joan Brown Hillary

"Brilliant sparkling weather with everyone's spirits likewise was most noticeable. Thought it was a super reunion - just seeing people again the greatest joy. The walk to Tanamakoon particularly enjoyable. A great deal of credit is owing to a number of people - the staff at Ronville, giving personable service and excellent meals. Patty and Frank, were the sparks behind everything from planning at the pre reunions to blowing up the balloons for the banquet, and at the same time tried to make all welcome on arrival and to hopefully enjoy the time we had together. To Winn and Russ thank you for the memorable book mark given to each grad. To Fran Ziegler for making the place cards for the banquet - and for all the pre dinner Happy Hours hosted on both decks - all these deserve special recognition.

Joan's suggestion for next reunion - 1994 - at Kananaskis and 1999 our 60th in Nova Scotia."

Frances Christie Bedford - not available

Ruth Corner

"The marvel was - that a total of 20 Grads and 8 husbands attended this reunion. Highlights for me were - The scenic drive to Ronville with Forsyth and Frappier, and the splendid visit we had enroute. Glimpses of Phoebe and Frank heading for their morning pre breakfast swim. Reminiscing over pictures which Adrienne and Forsyth had brought. Joining sun worshippers on deck chairs as they chatted facing over Lake of Bays. Rustling through colored leaves on our 20 minute????walk to Tanamakoon. Introduction to Bird Watching by Phoebe - by foot or by canoe. Visiting with Jess to view her medals, Gold ones, received recently at the Olympics in the Netherlands. Happy Hours as hosted by Patty and Frank and Gwen and Lloyd. Music and song in the lounge, by Winn our very own musician. Appreciated the tribute given by Jess to the grads who have now passed away. Also the names of the grads who were unable to attend were recognized. Suggestion for next reunion - Nova Scotia."

Dorothy Forsyth Sangster

"A time to be with the friends made 50 years ago and who now have become very "special" to all of us. The surroundings were beautiful - would love to have taken a canoe out and paddled along the shores of Lake of Bays. It was most interesting to learn of the travels so many of the class have taken; Corner had just returned from a trip to Russia - Winn was about to repack her bags and go to Russia, Fran Z. spends several months each year painting in Mexico - Joyce and husband were to leave right after reunion for France and Patty and Frank were to leave for Bermuda; also to note that instead of teaching Phys Ed many were now doing volunteer work in health related programs. Frank to be commended for his humorous toast to the

grads at the banquet. Enjoyed listening to Winn play some of our favorites after our evening meals - and appreciated gift of book mark. Suggestion for next reunion - 1994 - Kananaskis - in the West.

Dorothy Frappier Munsies

"It was most enjoyable - a time to do your own thing - even to playing a game of bridge with Reed Sutton and Forsyth. Lots of togetherness - the attendance was phenominal - 20 out of a possible 27 - simply amazing. The award for bravery has to go to Jean Sutton. Who in spite of many physical difficulties was able to spend the 3½ days with us and with the help of a caring husband took part in all the functions. My thanks to the organizers of this event - the beautiful book mark-as a good reader I use mine each day. A salute to the husbands who spread themselves around and made the reunion even more meaningful. Does everyone know that the old school has been made a Heritage building ? and the name Margaret Eaton is still up on the front."

Phoebe Hamilton

"What a good looking group - features depicted a great deal of love - understanding - and character in every face. Felt our friendship have both widened and deepened. Got to know a little better the grads who did not live in residence. Friendships have doubled in that we now know husbands. Could there be a more interesting group of men anywhere. Conversations were stimulating - so many travels - such varied interest and enthusiastic ideas. The whole event was leisurely - time to not only talk but to relax and to enjoy the beauty of our surroundings. It was really first class in every aspect. Would it be crazy to suggest we add another day to next reunion? We can't forget the Happy Hours before dinner each day - never do I laugh so much as at these parties - Roll on Calgary or Winnipeg area."

Shiga Hasagawa Ishimura

"A letter from Shiga explaining why due to family circumstances she could not join us for the 50th - but hoped to have this

letter arrive in time for the banquet. Patty received it upon returning home also with gifts enclosed for all. Patty in turn ran off copies for all - and we do say a heartfelt thanks to you Shiga and regret your absence. But I am enclosing Shiga's impressions here "I tell you my life with you all at Margaret Eaton School was the best in my life. Tanamakoon is a beautiful spot of traditional Canadian Lakes and Woods."

Carol Henry Duffus

"Great to see so many at the reunion - also the husbands. Even though we had the extra day - still not enough time talk to all. Felt there was not a need for us to go to a resort for our next reunion - no matter where we decide to go - as long as we set the date and year we will continue to visit with friends, these special ones whether we be South of Calgary or East of Toronto. I would like to investigate the possibility of having one in Halifax - take over rooms in one of the great hotels. There are lots of historic places to see in these parts - things to do - including a visit to our home where the weaving loom is always in action."

NOTE - Carol's pictures taken of a 2500 mile holiday trip - including ones at the reunion were all ruined and she would appreciate anyone sharing a picture or two with her - especially one of the whole group.

Joyce Jarvis Matthews

"It was great to see everyone again and to catch up with activities and families. I always regretted not having been a part of the residence scene which is where you got to know and formed fast friends because of the mutual things you shared - more so than a day pupil (which I was). However, looking back to last September, although I could not participate in the walk to Tanamakoon, Dick and I thoroughly enjoyed out time at Ronville. We in the prairies do not have the opportunity for get-togethers for Mini reunions as do the Toronto area grads and B.C. ones. Ronville does not offer the opportunities for group activities such as a canoe trip with a picnic lunch somewhere. This could have been fun but the lake is surrounded by

private property, thus my reason for suggesting Kananaskis Country, which is an hour's drive from Calgary. A bus tour to Banff, Lake Louise, Valley of the Ten Peaks with lunch enroute could be a days' activity. Another day to golf, swim or just sit and talk could be another day of activity. A chartered bus could be arranged for to move all from Calgary. Those wishing to drive or rent a car could do so. Sharing something that was particular to Ronville country I would have liked. Golf, tennis and swim - you can do at home - but on a trip there is so much to see do and share. If it is to be in Kananaskis in 1994 I know I can have concrete ideas to pursue."

Jess Loaring Eastwood

"It is sometimes difficult to put impressions into words e.g. how do you say ? someone coming toward you on a path, has a bit of a limp, looks a little frail - and then she smiles - it is as though 50 years have blown away - for it is Winn. Then you hear a deep voice behind you and there Marsh - same figure, same face and same colour of hair;;;Then there is Christie, I swear she is taller than she used to be, and her feet don't turn out as they used to - but her humour is exactly the same. Corner's smile is fantastic - its a real twinkle. Phoebe's voice has still the same softness - and I could go on and on. Good to be with everyone it was the right kind of place for us - casual and relaxed - weather good until the last day - a chance to visit by fireplace in the lodge. A real bonus for us to have a place to our selves and to have Winn play for us again. I am sure Sutton returned home better for being with and seeing everyone again."

Anne Lyster Toole

"A joyous occasion - location ideal - peaceful and private - beautiful lake, walk through the woods most memorable. Great to see Elinor Walker, for our paths have not crossed since 1939. Also admired the will and determination of Jean Sutton. Hope she continues to improve. Following the discussion as to where to have the next reunion - would like to suggest Kananaskis in 1994. Thanks to all who hosted the Happy Hours - a chance to

catch up on news - and to Gwen for giving us a touch of History in reminding us why we were there. a special thanks to the girls in the East who helped to plan the event."

Kay Marsh McFadzen

"Jim and I thoroughly enjoyed all 3 days spent at Ronville and look forward to a reunion in 1994. Can't think of another spot where we could have the place to ourselves. Would like to see it held in the West. Freedom was the key note - very enjoyable to walk, read, chat and gather to reminisce or whatever. We are an informal crew so need this type of setting to really have fun, relax and be our own zany selves. Glad Elinor and Harry made it. Hope to see them in 1994."

Frances McConnell Ziegler

Frances sent me Christmas greetings and did not realize until I sent her some pictures - that she was supposed to send in her 'Impressions'. However, I will take this opportunity to thank her for the place cards she made for the banquet and for the two recitations she gave in the lodge following the banquet. The 'Salutation to the Dawn' brought back many memories to all. Can still picture, Juniors and Seniors as we gathered around the flag pole to recite this poem at the beginning of each camp day at Couchaching and Tanamskoon. Thanks for restoring these memories Fran, also for the chats I had with you and husband at meal times. Keep painting.
-D.E.S.

Winn McLennan Johnston

"The reunion was the greatest - could have used more time to visit with people."
Winn did present all present with a beautiful leather book mark which she and Russ had made. I know I speak for all when I say this gift was much appreciated by all - and say 'many thanks'. Also we did appreciate you sharing your wonderful gift of music when playing in the lodge after meals. A fitting finale after the banquet was your playing - Clair de Lune and Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring - these bringing back memories of coffee in the drawing room after dinner at 99 St. George St.. - D.E.S.

Kay Reed Swenson

"I had memories of Tanamakoon as a big place - a large lake and to see it the size of a pond was disappointing. Really enjoyed the free time we had to visit with one another. Still did not talk to each one individually, probably because I tend to talk too much. The dining room service left much to be desired - would like to think it was because business had slowed down and the lodge was short of help. Enjoyed sharing rooms with Corner and Forsyth - especially the laughter after all these years. Felt Jean Sutton deserved special mention being present with all her physical problems - but with a caring husband always there to help her she was able to take part and enjoy."

Jean Sutton Hill - not available

Patty Sterne Sanders

"Compared to previous reunions I had a greater feeling of friendliness and of belonging. With each reunion we do renew friendships. Having 3 days and 3 nights did give us more time to visit. The location with good accomodation was excellent. The walk to Tanamakoon was great - thank you, Brownie, for making the arrangements for this. The enthusiasm from husbands was just what we expected - am I right Girls??????The frequent mention of having a 55th reunion and to continue having our Mini ones in between made it all more gratifying. Frank's secretary was delighted with the golf balls given to her on behalf of the grads in appreciation for all the typing she did."

Elinor Walker Chadwick

"The location for our 50th could not have been improved upon. It was good to have Ronville all to ourselves. It was indeed a marvelous get together, and I was terribly grateful to those who took the trouble to phone and dig us out of here. You really were a great bunch of girls at 99 St. George St. I never really felt quite in tune with the total class, being a day pupil - then coming in part-way through the year did not help. I would like to suggest the West for the next reunion and don't leave

it for too many years.

Julia Wright Fairley - not available

As I bring this summary of impressions to a close I would like to pay tribute on behalf of all members of the class of '39 to the Teachers who gave us the skills and knowledge to impart to the future generations of our country over these past 50 years. They were: Miss Florence Somers, Miss Charlotte Layton (School Secretary) Mrs. Elizabeth Wardley Raymer, Miss Dorothy Jackson, Miss Marion Hobday and Mrs. Marriot, Director of Residence life at 99 St. George St. Toronto.

To quote Winston Churchill "Never has so much been owed to so many by so few".

I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing from you all. Thank you for sending your impressions, and for the many 'Special' Christmas letters received this year.

Keep healthy.....and thank you for the memories.

Dorothy F. Sangster



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